



Targeted Topics Forum, February 2017
**Menu of Agenda Items related to “Monitoring & Evaluation of NAPs:
Strengthening Adaptation Processes”**

November 30, 2016

The topic of the NAP Global Network’s February 2017 TTF will be on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the NAP process, building on prior TTFs with the same group of developing countries on integration, political support, and options for financing implementation. The general objectives of this TTF will be to:

- Ensure developing country participants have a strong foundation in the key topics needed to design, implement and use results of M&E systems as a part of their NAP process;
- Identify key challenges, best practices and emerging opportunities related to the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation in the NAP process;
- Promote dialogue between actors from developing countries and bilateral donors to enable an exchange of views on effective ways to conduct and support M&E as part of the NAP process.

The TTF will cover three aspects of M&E: (a) foundational issues (purpose, use and policy environment), (b) methodological issues related to M&E of NAPs (challenges, opportunities, and ways forward), and (c) operational issues for the design and implementation of and M&E system (who to involve in the implementation of the M&E system, and what to produce?). Each of these aspects is briefly described at the beginning of each sub-section below.

Recognizing that these three aspects are broader than what can be covered during the three days scheduled for the TTF event, this document and the accompanying survey set out a menu of potential M&E issues that could be addressed during the meeting.

Responding to the [survey at this link](#) will allow us to tailor the agenda to your interests, and identify areas where we may be able to highlight or draw upon your own experience and/or expertise.

Below, you can find additional background information on each issue included in the survey. A few of these topics are not optional —[those highlighted in green](#)—and will be covered during the TTF as they are considered pivotal to the overall topic, and/or to the Network’s niche.

Foundational Issues: Purpose, Use and the Policy Environment

Sessions on foundational issues would address basic definitional questions, as well getting participants to think about the purpose and use of national M&E of adaptation in their own context and how this relates to national development priorities. It will also emphasize the country-specificity of approaches to M&E of adaptation at the national level, related to the nationally driven nature of the NAP process.

An Introduction to M&E in the NAP Process

Element D of the NAP Technical guidelines focuses on monitoring and review of the NAP process to assess progress, inform updates to the NAP on an ongoing basis, and report progress to key stakeholders including the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP). Drawing on a guidebook for developing national adaptation M&E systems (Price-Kelly et al., 2015), this session will introduce the importance of M&E in the NAP process, and frame more in-depth discussions through a broad overview of considerations countries should address throughout the NAP process. The session will address definitional issues and key concepts, and introduce some of the considerations specific to M&E at the *national* level—including the need to aggregate information from across sectors and levels.

Purpose and Use of M&E Systems in the Context of NAPs

Adaptation planners require a clearly defined purpose of and use for M&E results in the NAP process to inform the development and operationalization of the system. In this session, participants would learn about different possible uses of M&E information in the NAP process, and consider how they would like to use M&E results based on a consideration of their specific country context. For example, monitoring and review (Element D in the NAP Technical Guidelines) can be used to review progress in the NAP process and inform iterative updates in the NAP. M&E results may also inform updates to a country's National Communications to the UNFCCC, the adaptation component of a country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and/or be used to report on adaptation progress as a part of the Adaptation Communications which may inform the global stock-take (also under the Paris Agreement).

Linking M&E of Adaptation to the Broader Sustainable Development Agenda

Given the objective of the NAP process to integrate adaptation considerations into broader development planning, this session would examine the linkages between M&E of adaptation and monitoring of sustainable development more generally at the national level. In particular, participants can explore how to link M&E of the NAP process with national development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Doing so could help to ensure the relevance, feasibility and buy-in of the M&E system for adaptation / NAP, and avoid establishing unnecessarily burdensome or duplicative systems. The session would allow participants to start thinking about how they can link M&E of the NAP process with their specific national development priorities.

Lessons from Case Studies of National Systems for Adaptation M&E

Tailored approaches to national M&E for adaptation can provide valuable lessons and best practices that can be used to inform future decision-making in this field. This session could provide participants with an overview of key lessons that have emerged from a comparative study of ten different national M&E systems (Hammill et al., 2015), providing participants with insights into different approaches and experiences countries have had in designing and implementing their M&E systems. The session would also demonstrate through diverse case studies that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to M&E in the NAP process, which is country-specific. The session could cover the challenges and enabling factors for the design and implementation of adaptation M&E systems at higher, aggregated levels, and provide recommendations to strengthen the development of these systems as part of the NAP process.

Methodological Issues: What to monitor and how?

These sessions would look at what to monitor to address the purposes and uses that a country has identified for its M&E system, and methodological approaches and questions related to monitoring the NAP process and its outcomes.

Introduction to Existing Methodologies for National M&E of Adaptation

The growing importance of monitoring and evaluation of adaptation interventions has been accompanied by a range of methodological challenges associated with the uncertain, non-linear, and long-term nature of climate change (OECD, 2014, Christiansen, L. et.al., 2016). National adaptation planners require a clear understanding of the strengths,

limitations and the underlying assumptions of the different methods available to monitor and evaluate adaptation. This session could introduce participants to some available methods and techniques that can be used to address M&E adaptation challenges at the national level, including those related to monitoring process versus outcomes, the attribution and contribution of adaptation interventions, the design of appropriate baselines, and the selection of time scales for M&E approaches.

Measuring Progress in the NAP Process: Selecting Data Sources and Indicators

Because adaptation is highly context-specific, and because it cuts across multiple scales and sectors that may vary by country, there is no commonly agreed set of indicators that can be applied to measure success in adaptation. Yet measuring progress in adaptation is not only a key component of transparency and accountability for political commitments and funding (Ford et.al., 2015), but it is also useful for ongoing reflection and learning. This session could provide participants with practical guidance on the selection of indicators and other data sources for the NAP process. Issues that could be addressed include the selection/balance between process and output indicators, the use of proxy indicators and the limitations associated with them, and the use of evaluative evidence to inform climate change adaptation policy making, among others. This session could draw from existing indicators and data sources that have been developed by different countries in monitoring their progress in adaptation.

Gender-Sensitive M&E Approaches for the NAP Process

The integration of gender equality considerations, as well as men's and women's different needs, perspectives and knowledge, constitute crucial components in the design and implementation of the NAP process, and in the systems used for monitoring and evaluating adaptation. This session could provide participants with the basis needed to design and implement gender-sensitive M&E approaches for adaptation. Topics could cover the purpose and use of monitoring gender as part of adaptation processes, the methods and tools available for gender-sensitive mentoring, challenges and opportunities of conducting gender-sensitive M&E, key questions to consider in designing a gender-sensitive M&E system for adaptation, selecting gender-sensitive indicators, and lessons from selected experiences.

Operational Issues and Institutional Arrangements: Who to involve in implementation of the M&E system and what to produce?

Sessions under this section would address operational issues related to setting up and implementing a national system for M&E of adaptation, identifying the actors that need to be involved, and steps that would need to be taken to coordinate their different roles.

Sectoral Integration and Aggregation: How to Facilitate M&E of Adaptation Across Sectors

As a part of the NAP process, climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, and infrastructure are incorporating adaptation considerations into their strategies and plans. A robust national M&E approach could help demonstrate progress and results across vulnerable sectors, assist in the identification of gaps and priorities, and foster a more holistic understanding of the countries' adaptation situation. Furthermore, to avoid duplicative and overly burdensome systems, as well as to ensure the identification of suitable indicators, it is important to consider what information is already being monitored by sectors and how existing information might be used in monitoring adaptation. A session on this topic could explore institutional arrangements for M&E across sectors (e.g. who needs to be involved?), what existing information from across sectors is collected and could be used for M&E of adaptation, and what would be required to facilitate collection of information from different sectors (e.g. what tools may need to be developed to facilitate collection of information from across sectors?).

Vertical Integration and Aggregation: How to Facilitate M&E of Adaptation Across Scales

Adaptation action at sub-national levels contributes to national progress on adaptation. A session on vertical integration and aggregation would explore how countries can create strategic linkages between national and sub-national adaptation planning and M&E. This session would address issues such as institutional arrangements and information sharing for M&E across scales, capacity for M&E of adaptation across scales, as well as approaches to capturing results of sub-national adaptation and ensuring results inform local planning and action.

M&E Outputs: Reporting and Communicating Progress on Adaptation

Reporting and communicating adaptation progress constitutes an increasingly important task for developing country adaptation planners. In addition to the design and implementation of robust M&E systems for adaptation, it is crucial to adopt viable reporting tools that will serve the purpose(s) of the M&E system and its intended users. Issues related to frequency, timing, data availability, outputs and reporting formats can pose challenges to adaptation planners, who face constraints associated with budget, technical capacity, and lack of knowledge about the information needs of particular audiences. This session would provide participants with different options available to synthesize, report and communicate adaptation progress and intended products to key audiences at the international, national, sectoral and local levels. It could explore a variety of methods to communicate progress, including language, messaging and formats, and provide participants with guidance on supporting resources in this field.

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